

EXHIBIT A. VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Twice amended) A method to enhance bone formation [or to treat pathological dental conditions or to treat degenerative joint conditions] in a vertebrate animal which method comprises administering to a vertebrate animal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound that inhibits proteasomal activity and said compound being selected from the group consisting of a peptidyl aldehyde, pentoxifylline (PTX) and epoxomicin, whereby bone formation is enhanced [or said pathological dental conditions or degenerative joint conditions is treated] in said vertebrate animal.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said [subject] vertebrate animal is characterized by a condition selected from the group consisting of osteoporosis, bone fracture or deficiency, primary or secondary hyperparathyroidism, [periodontal disease or defect,] metastatic bone disease, osteolytic bone disease, and post-plastic surgery [, post-prosthetic joint surgery, and post-dental implantation].

also directed to bone formation with some of the same compounds presently claimed.

Applicants would appreciate a further clarification from the Examiner on this issue.

The Examiner also stated that there were misspelled words in the pending claims.

Applicants performed a search and believe that "pentoxifylline" is a correct spelling of said word.

Applicants acknowledged the Examiner's statement regarding cited references not found in the file. A clarification and communication on that matter will follow.

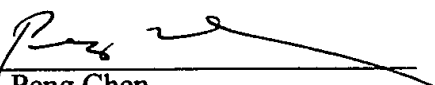
In the Response to the Restriction Requirement, filed 01/23/02, Applicants requested that based on the provided considerations the election of group I be extended to group V as well. The Examiner's clarification on the matter would be greatly appreciated.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 432722002621. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: May 13, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Peng Chen
Registration No. 43,543

Morrison & Foerster LLP
3811 Valley Centre Drive, # 500
San Diego, CA 92130-2332
Telephone: (858) 720-5117
Facsimile: (858) 720-5125